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27 March 1981

AM-SALVADOR-CIA 3-27

BY DANIEL F. GILMORE

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A FORMER CIA AGENT, IMPLYI
MANIPULATION OF THE EL SALVADOR CRISIS, FRIDAY HE
TO FORCE THE AGENCY TO RELEASE MATERIAL IT CENSO
ARTICLE HE WROTE.

RALPH MCGEHEE, 53, OF HERNDON, VA., SUBMITTED
DISTRICT COURT DECLARING THE CIA IMPROPERLY CENSO
AND ASKING FOR AN INJUNCTION DIRECTING THE AGENCY
PUBLICATION OF THE DELETED MATERIAL.

MCGEHEE'S CENSORED ARTICLE ON ALLEGED CIA OPERATIONS IN EL SALVADOR IS TO RUN IN THE APRIL 4 EDITION OF THE NATION MAGAZINE, A LIBERAL POLITICAL WEEKLY THAT JOINED IN HIS COURT COMPLAINT.

THE PLAINTIFFS ARE BEING REPRESENTED BY MARK H. LYNCH OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION FOUNDATION.

CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM CASEY IS NAMED AS DEFENDANT.

MCGEHEE, WHO SERVED IN THE CIA FROM 1952 TO 1977, SAID HE SUBMITTED HIS MANUSCRIPT TO THE CIA FOR PRE-PUBLICATION REVIEW UNDER TERMS OF WRITTEN AGREEMENTS HE SIGNED WHEN ENTERING AND LEAVING THE AGENCY.

IN THE ARTICLE, ACCORDING TO THE BRIEF, MCGEHEE "ARGUES THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL DANGER THE CIA HAS MANIPULATED PUBLIC OPINION WITH RESPECT TO RECENT EVENTS IN EL SALVADOR."

"IN PARTICULAR," IT SAID, "HE ARGUES THAT THE CIA HAS PROBABLY FABRICATED DOCUMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN RELEASED BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO PROVE THAT THE SOVIET UNION, CUBA AND OTHER ADVERSARIES OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR MASSIVE ARMS SHIPMENTS TO LEFTIST FORCES IN EL SALVADOR."

THE CENSORED ARTICLE ITSELF SHOWS NO PROOF OF CIA ACTIVITIES IN EL SALVADOR AND REFERS ONLY TO "PROBABILITIES" BASED ON PAST "DISINFORMATION" AND INTERVENTIONIST TACTICS SAID TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY THE AGENCY IN IRAN, CHILE, VIETNAM AND INDONESIA.

MCGEHEE ALSO REFERS TO DISCLOSURES IN A BOOK WRITTEN BY FORMER CIA AGENT PHILIP AGEE, WHO WENT TO EUROPE TO AVOID AGENCY CENSORSHIP OF HIS ANTI-INTELLIGENCE WORKS.

"HIDING ITS GOALS UNDER THE RUBRIC OF FIGHTING INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM OR MORE RECENTLY INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM," HE SAID, "THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS MINORITY LAND-OWNING AUTOCRACIES AND THEIR MILITARY SUBORDINATES AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THE MASSES OF PEOPLE."

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